Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

July 21, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Majority Whip
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Hoyer, Majority Leader Schumer, Majority Whip Durbin,

As we work to jumpstart the economy and put people back to work through investments in our infrastructure, we respectfully request you consider investing $30.5 billion in the Department of Energy (DOE) National Laboratories. Funding for maintenance, repairs, and modernization of National Lab infrastructure will ensure our nation's continued scientific and economic competitiveness, create thousands of high-quality, good-paying jobs, and attract the best and brightest scientists and engineers to national service.

DOE maintains a network of 17 National Laboratories that advance the science, technology, energy, environmental, and national security missions of the Department. Although the labs are managed by DOE, they help find solutions to a broad set of challenges of national importance ranging from the use of artificial intelligence to improve health services and outcomes for our nation's veterans to advancing quantum information science that will lead to next-generation communications networks and computers. The National Labs are also critical to tackling the challenge of climate change and reducing global emissions. As nations join together to set ambitious goals to decarbonize global economies and provide clean energy solutions, the U.S. is viewed as the innovation leader. Now, more than ever, an investment to modernize and build laboratory infrastructure is critical to advancing these technologies.

More than 40,000 researchers from academia, industry, and other federal agencies use these unique, world-leading facilities to support their scientific pursuits. During the COVID-19 crisis, our National Labs have provided their expertise and facilities to help overcome the COVID-19 challenge, including the use of DOE's supercomputers to search for treatments and vaccine therapies, X-ray light sources to understand the virus and identify potential vulnerabilities, and advanced manufacturing expertise to address the shortage of personal protective equipment and ventilators.

Across the DOE National Laboratory complex, there are $30.5 billion in shovel-ready infrastructure projects – from utility upgrades to new state of the art research facilities. Our National Labs suffer from a maintenance backlog from decades of underfunding that puts the labs' successful and efficient execution of their mission at risk. The average age of DOE facilities is 37 years and the average age of the systems that support these facilities (e.g., water,

sewage, electrical, roads) is 40 years.

A dedicated, focused investment would go a long way toward recapitalizing and modernizing National Lab infrastructure and would immediately support thousands of high-quality, good-paying jobs. Investing in our National Lab infrastructure would foster safe, efficient, reliable and environmentally responsible operations, boost morale of the scientific and engineering workforce at the National Labs and demonstrate our nation's continued commitment to maintaining the world's best scientific infrastructure.

DOE National Laboratories are a national treasure. An investment in their infrastructure is an investment in American workers and the U.S. economy today for a prosperous and secure tomorrow. Thank you for your consideration of these key infrastructure investments as Congress works to build back better.
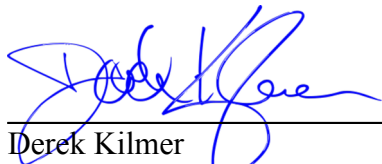
Sincerely,

Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress
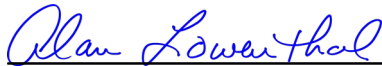
Bill Foster
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Joe Neguse
Member of Congress
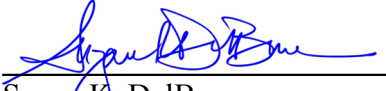
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress
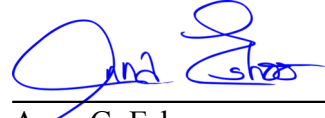
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
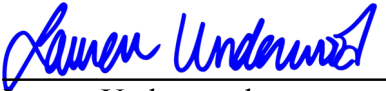Member of Congress

Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress

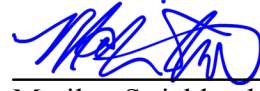Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

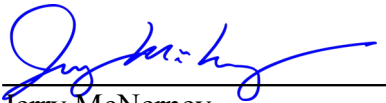Teresa Leger Fernández
Member of Congress

Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress

Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress

Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress
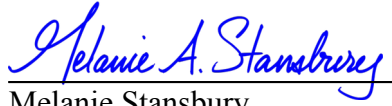
Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress
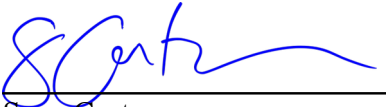Chairman, Committee on
Education and Labor

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress

Conor Lamb
Member of Congress

Sean Casten
Member of Congress